

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims Pending:

- At time of the Action: Claims 1-23
- Amended Claims: Claims 1, 5, 7, 17, and 20
- After this Response: Claims 1-23

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A method implemented on a computing device by a processor configured to execute instructions that, when executed by the processor, for seeking access to a first server, the method comprising:

determining that a client seeking access to the first server is not authenticated by an authentication server;

communicating a request for login information to be returned to the authentication server from the client;

receiving the first login information at the authentication server from the client;

associating the login information with a user profile information;

authenticating the client by comparing the login information with authentication information maintained by the authentication server;

when the login information matches the authentication information,

generating a user authentication indicator at the authentication server;

sending the user authentication indicator to the first server; and

sending the user profile information associated with the login information to the first server;

at a time;

after sending the user authentication indicator to the first server;

determining that the client seeking access to the first server is not authenticated by the authentication server;

~~determining that the client seeking access to the first server is not authenticated by the authentication server;~~

communicating a request for an other login information to be returned to the authentication server from the client;

receiving the other login information at the authentication server from the client;

associating the other login information with the user profile information;

authenticating the client by comparing the other login information with the authentication information maintained by the authentication server;

when the other login information does not match matches the authentication information,

generating an other user authentication indicator at the authentication server;
and

sending the other user authentication indicator to the first server [[.]] ; and
when the other login information matches the authentication information,

copying cookies to the client, redirecting a browser to an affiliate server, and
indicated a period of time for the cookies to be valid, wherein the cookies are
encrypted using a key unique to the affiliate server.

2. **(Original)** The method of claim 1 wherein the user authentication indicator does not contain reference to the login information.

3. **(Original)** The method of claim 1 wherein the user authentication indicator includes a time stamp indicating the last time the client's login information was refreshed.

4. **(Original)** The method of claim 1 wherein the user authentication indicator includes a time stamp indicating the last time the client sent login information.

5. **(Currently Amended)** One or more computer-readable storage media having stored thereon a plurality of instructions that when executed by a processor, the plurality of instructions comprising:

determining that a client seeking access to a first server is not authenticated by an authentication server;

communicating a request for a login information to be returned to the authentication server from the client;

receiving the login information at the authentication server from the client; authenticating the client by comparing the login information with authentication information maintained by the authentication server;

associating login information with a user profile information, the user profile information allows a user to enter the user profile information once and continue to use the user profile information during subsequent logins;

when the login information does not match matches the authentication information,

generating a user authentication indicator at the authentication server;

sending the user authentication indicator to the first server; and

sending user profile information associated with the client login information to the first server [[.]] ; and

when the other login information matches the authentication information,

copying cookies to the client, redirecting a browser to an affiliate server, and indicated a period of time for the cookies to be valid, wherein the cookies are encrypted using a key unique to the affiliate server.

6. **(Original)** The method of claim 1, wherein the login information is used to authenticate the client with respect to the authentication server but does not have to be transmitted to the first server to authenticate the client with respect to the first server.

7. **(Currently Amended)** A method implemented on a computing device by a processor configured to execute instructions that, when executed by the processor, of authenticating a client with respect to a network server to which the client is seeking access, the method comprising:

receiving a request at an authentication server from the network server to authenticate a client;

determining that the client is not authenticated by the authentication server;

registering a user profile information with the authentication server, the user profile information allows a user to enter the user profile information once and continue to use the user profile information during subsequent logins;

receiving login information at the authentication server from the client;

authenticating the client at the authentication server by comparing the received login information with authentication information maintained by the authentication server; and

determining that the received login information does not match matches the authentication information;

generating an authentication indication at the authentication server; and
communicating the authentication information and the user profile information
associated with the client login information to the network server [.] ; and
when the other login information matches the authentication information,
copying cookies to the client, redirecting a browser to an affiliate server, and
indicated a period of time for the cookies to be valid, wherein the cookies are encrypted
using a key unique to the affiliate server.

8. **(Original)** The method of claim 7 wherein the authentication indication further includes:

a first time stamp indicating the last time the client's login information was refreshed; and

a second time stamp indicating the last time the client sent login information.

9. **(Original)** The method of claim 7 wherein the network server includes a web server coupled to the Internet.

10. **(Original)** The method of claim 7 wherein the received login information includes a login ID and a password.

11. **(Original)** The method of claim 7 further comprising concealing the received login information from the network server.

12. **(Original)** The method of claim 7 further comprising concealing the authentication information from the network server.

13. **(Original)** The method of claim 7 wherein the client has registered with the authentication server prior to receiving the request.

14. **(Original)** The method of claim 7 wherein the network server has registered with the authentication server prior to receiving the request.

15. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 7, wherein the login information is used to authenticate the client with respect to the authentication server but does not have to be transmitted to the network server to authenticate the client with respect to the network server.

16. **(Original)** The method of claim 7, wherein the authentication indication acts as a client authentication indicator.

17. **(Currently Amended)** One or more computer-readable storage media having stored thereon a plurality of instructions that when executed by a processor, the plurality of instructions comprising:

receiving a request to authenticate a user seeking access to a network server;

determining that the user is not authenticated by an authentication server;

registering a user profile information with the authentication server, the user profile information allows a user to enter the user profile information once and continue to use the user profile information during subsequent logins;

receiving login information at the authentication server from the user;

authenticating the user at the authentication server by comparing the received login information with authentication information maintained by the authentication server;

when the received login information does not match matches the authentication information,

generating a user authentication indicator at the authentication server;

sending the user authentication indicator to the network server; and

sending the user profile information associated with the login information to the network server [(.)] ; and

when the other login information matches the authentication information,

copying cookies to the client, redirecting a browser to an affiliate server, and indicated a period of time for the cookies to be valid, wherein the cookies are encrypted using a key unique to the affiliate server.

18. **(Original)** The computer-readable media of claim 17 wherein the received login information includes a login ID and a password.

19. **(Previously Presented)** The computer-readable media of claim 17, wherein the login information is used to authenticate the client with respect to the authentication server but does not have to be transmitted to the network server to

authenticate the client with respect to the network server.

20. **(Currently Amended)** A system comprising:

a network server to receive a request by a client to gain access to the network server,

the network server to transmit a request to the authentication server for the authentication server to authenticate the client, wherein the request includes a client login information;

an authentication server to determine that the client is authenticated with respect to the authentication server,

an authentication database identifying elements of a user profile information provided to the authentication server, the user profile information allows a user to enter the user profile information once and continue to use the user profile information during subsequent logins;

the authentication server to transmit a client authentication indicator to the network server, wherein the client authentication indicator to indicate whether the client is authenticated; and

whereby the network server is to grant access to the client at the network server, wherein the network server is to receive a user profile information associated with the client login information when the client authentication indicator determines that the client is authenticated at the authentication server [.] ;

when the received login information does not match matches the authentication information.

generating a user authentication indicator at the authentication server;
sending the user authentication indicator to the network server; and
sending the user profile information associated with the login information to
the network server; and
when the other login information matches the authentication information,
copying cookies to the client, redirecting a browser to an affiliate server, and
indicated a period of time for the cookies to be valid, wherein the cookies are encrypted
using a key unique to the affiliate server.

21. **(Original)** The system of claim 20 wherein the network server is to deny access to the client if the user authentication indicator indicates that the client is not authenticated.

22. **(Original)** The system of claim 20 wherein the user authentication indicator includes a first time stamp indicating the last time the client's login information was refreshed.

23. **(Original)** The system of claim 20 wherein the user authentication indicator includes a second time stamp indicating the last time the client physically entered their login information.